

**PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. PRIT01-00001**

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) Computer-implementable instruction code operable on a user device for constructing and transmitting a password to an authentication device that authenticates the password and grants the user device access to protected information, said instruction code being operable for:

receiving through an Input device from a user, a sequence of predefined characters to be utilized to construct the password;

~~placing the received characters in at least two data packets, without regard to any timing characteristics with which the characters were received;~~

retrieving from a memory, a time interval mutually agreed upon by the user device and the authentication device; and

individually transmitting the ~~data packets~~ characters to the authentication device separated in time by the mutually agreed upon time interval, and without regard to any timing characteristics with which the characters were received from the user.

43. (Currently Amended) In a user device, a computer-implemented method of constructing and transmitting a password to an authentication device that authenticates the password and grants the user device access to protected information, said method comprising:

receiving through an input device from a user, a sequence of predefined characters to be utilized to construct the password;

~~placing the received characters in at least two data packets;~~

retrieving from a memory, a predefined time interval; and

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individually transmitting the ~~data-packets~~ characters to the authentication device separated in time by the predefined time interval.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the password includes at least three ~~data-packets~~ characters, and wherein the step of retrieving a predefined time interval includes retrieving a first predefined time interval for separating a first pair of adjacent ~~data-packets~~ characters and retrieving a different second predefined time interval for separating a second pair of adjacent ~~data-packets~~ characters.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, further comprising, before the retrieving step, the steps of:
receiving at least one predefined time interval from the authentication device; and
storing the at least one predefined time interval in the memory.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) In an authentication device, a computer-implemented method of authenticating a user device requesting access to protected information through the authentication device, said method comprising:

receiving at least two individually transmitted ~~data-packets~~ password characters from the user device;

measuring a time of receipt for each received ~~data-packet~~ password character to determine a received time interval separating each ~~data-packet~~ password character from an adjacent ~~data-packet~~ password character received from the user device;

determining by the authentication device, whether the received time interval separating each ~~data-packet~~ password character from an adjacent ~~data-packet~~ password character matches the a predefined time interval;

~~extracting characters from the received data-packets;~~

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determining by the authentication device, whether the ~~extracted~~ received password characters match the a sequence of predefined characters; and

positively authenticating the user device only if the received time interval separating each ~~data-packet~~ password character from an adjacent ~~data-packet~~ password character matches the predefined time interval, and the ~~extracted~~ received password characters match the sequence of predefined characters.

48. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a computer password having a plurality of characters, comprising:

~~placing the plurality of characters in at least two data-packets;~~

obtaining at least one predefined time interval for defining [[an]] individual transmission time times for transmitting each ~~data-packet~~ at least two password characters from a user device to an authentication device; and

individually transmitting the at least two ~~data-packets~~ password characters from the user device to the authentication device at the individual transmission times for each ~~data packet~~ password character;

wherein a valid password must ~~carry~~ include the correct password characters ~~in the data-packets~~, and the ~~data-packets~~ password characters must be received by the authentication device with the correct time interval between sequential ~~data-packets~~ password characters.

49. (Canceled)

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50. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of authenticating a user device requesting access to protected information through an authentication device, said method comprising:

in the user device:

receiving through an input device from a user, a sequence of predefined characters to be utilized to construct the password;

~~placing the received characters in at least two data packets;~~

retrieving from a memory, a predefined time interval; and

individually transmitting the ~~data packets~~ password characters to the authentication device separated in time by the predefined time interval; and

in the authentication device:

receiving the individually transmitted ~~data packets~~ password characters from the user device;

measuring a time of receipt for each received ~~data packet~~ password character to determine a received time interval separating each ~~data packet~~ password character from an adjacent ~~data packet~~ password character in the password;

determining by the authentication device, whether the received time interval separating each ~~data packet~~ password character from an adjacent ~~data packet~~ password character matches the predefined time interval;

~~extracting the characters from the received data packets;~~

determining by the authentication device, whether the ~~extracted~~ received password characters match the sequence of predefined characters; and

positively authenticating the user device only if the received time interval separating each ~~data packet~~ password character from an adjacent ~~data packet~~ password character matches the predefined time interval, and the ~~extracted~~ received password characters match the sequence of predefined characters.